Camerata Galatea

Feel the Magic of Classics Christmas
06 Oct 2019
15 Dec 2019

Chorus Urbanus Productions present
Feel the Magic of MUSICAL THEATRE

John Galea
conductor

with the participation of
Malta Concert Orchestra
Chorus Urbanus soloists
Chorus Urbanus
Urbanus Junior Choir
Centre Stage Dance Academy

St. Augustine Square
Victoria, Gozo
27th July 2019
8.30pm

Chorus Urbanus
Urbanus Junior Choir
Concert Programme

It's a hard knock life (Annie)
Bui Doi (Miss Saigon)
Don't cry for me Argentina (Evita)
Maybe (Annie)
Memory (Cats)
Tonight - Balcony scene (West Side Story)
Food Glorious Food (Oliver)
Edelweiss (Sound of Music)
Do you hear the people sing (Les Miserables)
Climb every mountain (Sound of Music)
Masquerade (Phantom of the Opera)
Consider yourself (Oliver)
Do Re Mi (Sound of Music)
Where is love (Oliver)
All I ask of you (Phantom of the Opera)
Who will buy (Oliver)
My favourite things (Sound of Music)
I'll do anything (Oliver)
One day more (Les Miserables)
When you believe (The Prince of Egypt)

Chorus Urbanus
Urbanus Junior Choir
Malta Concert Orchestra
Centre Stage Dance Academy

conductor
Dr John Galea

Feel the Magic - The Project

Feel the Magic represents a strong three-year vision that seeks to place the arts and creativity at the heart of Gozo’s future. The project supports the implementation of a series of high-profile concerts in collaboration with international and national organizations and aims to develop a co-ordinated yearly programme of events.

Mission Statement
Chorus Urbanus Productions is a non-profit organization that is a very active protagonist in the national cultural scenario. It is the organization’s mission to co-ordinate and present notable cultural events throughout the year. It is our policy to produce and present concerts of a very high standard both by local and international artists within the limits of our budgetary constraints, that are however generously supported by the Gozo Cultural Support Programme Fund. The Feel the Magic Project is spread over four major concerts per year (one for every season) and one Grand Concert featuring various soloists, Choir, Children’s Choir, Orchestra, and Choreography, in the open-air during the Summer months.

Aims and Objectives:
The philosophy behind the setting up of this project is triggered by a culturally rich and eminently educational approach. Our policy gives a high priority to the promotion of top-level local talent to share the limelight with foreign high-culture artists. It is our objective to enhance the international status of the Project with seasoned local and international performers being invited to perform a varied repertoire that promises to be exciting in its exploration of the magic of the Arts.

Artistic Development:
A network of professional relationships is enabled through the local and international contacts enjoyed by our Artistic Director, Dr John Galea. This gives a stronger and more excellent profile to the Project. Apart from master classes, the Project caters for the educational programme that gears its focus on local musicians and our own choirmasters by providing them with a platform from where they would have the opportunity to perform along other international artists to a culturally enlightened audience, who are the net beneficiaries of these concerts.

Audience Development:
Inclusivity features highly on our cultural agenda. The level of excellence that is being foreseen in the quality of the concerts does encourage audiences with diverse tastes of genres, coming from all walks of life to attend. The Organizers of the Project will also strive to attract tourists who happen to be visiting the islands throughout the whole year. Contacts are being made with tour operators, hotels, estate agents and other strategic partners as the Feel the Magic excitement is already starting to generate their interest in our project.

It is envisaged that Social Networking is undertaken to help an extensive reach out. One way of achieving this is certainly the setting up of our website, where communication and accessibility to information about programmes, artists, general information with regard to ‘how to get there’ directions, thus making it easier for the organisation to attract a wider range of people interested to attend. A Facebook page is also set up to achieve efficient ways of social networking to reach out to new audiences through an aggressive page promotion and advertising.

Project Sustainability:
The Project organizers acknowledge the solid contributions of various sponsors, without whose support the rich cultural content of the project will fail to achieve its objective of widespread dissemination. Through these sponsorships, we will continue to dream and achieve and ensure that the high reputation of Gozo as a cultural destination of excellence is maintained.

Attesting addressed by the Project:
The programme projected for this year, presents four contrasted Feel the Magic concerts showcasing prime artistic
Concert Programme

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Acknowledgements
Hon Dr. Justyne Caruana, Ministry for Gozo, Malta Arts Council, Citadel Video Communications, TVM, NET TV, ONE, RTK, Radju Malta, Net FM, ONE Radio, Danusan, Victoria Local Council, Legion of Mary, Oratory Don Bosco, APS Bank, Joseph Portelli Projects, Michael Grech Financial, Silhouette, Meylak Jewellers, Marchese

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Audience Category and Participation:
The project is designed to attract a diverse and wide audience, with a widespread appeal where diverse tastes are addressed! Such is the philosophy behind the Project that promises events that are attractive and compelling to one and all. It is our ardent desire to build a group of Friends at Chorus Urbanus Productions whose members will participate in the actual feedbacks and suggestions as to what they would like to be included in future editions of the Feel the Magic Project. This is no mean feat but we are sure that we have the will to make it happen!

Chorus Urbanus

Chorus Urbanus was officially set up in 1975 on the initiative of Fr Joseph Gavri and the late Joseph Bazzaz. Over many years it has become a major choir drawing members from all over Gozo.

The choir has organised regular master classes delivered by Prof. B.K. Dobreva, former Dean of the State Academy of Music in Sofia and her assistant Ms M. Atanassova, and by Mrs Maria de Gasperi, the choir master at La Scala, Milano, made possible through a Malta Arts Fund grant. During these last years the members of Chorus Urbanus have already undergone vocal coaching with Juliette Bassia-Zanni. Moreover, the choir enjoys the professional leadership of Mrs Dr John Galea, from the Music Studies Department at the University of Malta, its musical director since 1979.

The choir has performed representative choral works such as Rossini's Stabat Mater, Mozart's Coronation Mass and Gounod's Messa Solennelle en Honor de Sainte Cecile, Puccini's Messa di Gloria and John Gallea's Missa Ignes Caritatis, Missa Fons Vitae and Missa In Fractione Panis, the latter during the Papal Mass on the Granaries, Floriana, during Pope Benedict XVI visit to Malta. The choir is also the main exponent of Dr Galea's works written specifically for it. Under his direction, Chorus Urbanus has performed with top musical institutions such as the Eurofilarmonica Fiorentina (Italy), the Manoel Theatre Orchestra (Malta), the Thoresby Colliery Brass Band (UK), the Sofia Symphony Orchestra (Bulgaria), the Kurgan Symphony Orchestra (Russia), the Sofia Collegium Symphony Orchestra (Bulgaria) and the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra.

Touring has formed a major plank in the choir's consolidation and concert structure. It is the first Gozitan choir to travel abroad for singing engagements. During its past choral tours the choir has been invited to perform in Italy, Switzerland, UK, Bulgaria, Hungary, Austria, Greece and France.

The Choir has a number of CD’s to their credit namely, Brass and Voices together with Thoresby Colliery Brass Band, Nicolò Cavazza’s Messa Leggiera and John Gallea’s symphonic poem Ganga, both with the Sofia Symphony Orchestra, John Gallea’s oratorio Il-Gabba’ Kristu and its Italian version Il Cuore di Cristo with the Sofia Collegium Symphony Orchestra, published and released by EMI Publishing, Milano and Soundscapes of a Mediterranean Culture - Unleash your senses, published by Megro Bros. Creativity Centre. The choir is also featured in 1000 voix à la Cathédrale, the grand Christmas Concert screened from Strasbourg in 2005. This concert where Chorus Urbanus represented the Maltese Islands together with another twenty four choirs from the various members of the EU, was broadcast on DVD by Loo Nolettes (Alsace), Europe Catant and France 3.

On the strength of its high artistic standards and credentials, Chorus Urbanus was affiliated to Europa Cantant, now European Choral Association - Europa Catant and given recognition as the first choir from the Maltese Islands to become a full member of this European Federation of Choirs.

Urbanus Junior Choir

The Urbanus Junior Choir is an offspring of Chorus Urbanus, the latter having been established since 1975. In July 2017 Chorus Urbanus re-launched the Junior Choir under the direction of Maurin Zerafa and it gave its inaugural performance during the Christmas Concert in the same year. During this concert the Juniors performed a solo piece We Are Walking in the Air and accompanied the senior choir in a number of carols most notably being Silent Night, Adeste Fideles, Somewhere in My Memory, and Ninni La Tlibka Tizjed. This was the start of a new journey which is now seeing the Junior Choir going from strength to strength.

In March 2018 the Junior Choir took part in 'The Last Words of Jesus Christ on the Cross' together with the participation of Chorus Urbanus during the Lenten period. In May 2018 the Junior choir together with the Chorus Urbanus presented 'Feel the Magic'. This activity consisted of a selection of all time favourite songs from popular animation movies at Villa Rundle which was transformed into a fantasy garden for the occasion.

Christmas 2018 brought many other opportunities for this choir, where the Junior choir took part in a number of ‘Christmas in Gozo’ events. They performed Christmas carols in the Christmas Village at the Gozo Agricultural Village, Xewkija, at the Victoria Playing field, in Villa Rundle – Christmas caroling, L’Isillina – in the presence of H.E Marie Louise Coleiro and finally in the annual Christson concert at St George’s Basilica in December. During the latter concert, the Junior Choir sang their hearts out backed by the Chorus Urbanus and by the excellent playing of the Urbanus Festive Orchestra. The Junior choir performed ‘Caro Gesu Bambino' solo part given to Kurt Theuma Scerri and Hannah Vella, and ‘Tifel Isqajar’ sung by Kristen Grima. 2018 ended with the choir's participation in the series ‘Trail of Voices’, an evening of choir music around Victoria together with Chorus Urbanus at the Nativity BVM Savina Church.

In April 2019 the Junior choir performed during the re-enactment of the TenEBrae procession (aka The Black procession) a Holy Week activity organized by Ghazda Dilezzenti Gimgha ‘Kördu’. In May 2019 Chorus Urbanus Junior choir performed at the Alive Junior Song Fest, under the direction of Ms Maureen Zerafa together with vibrant choreographies by the Centre Stage Dance Academy under the direction of Ms Natalie Scirocco. Tonight the Junior Choir is taking part in this high profile 'Feel the Magic' concert together with the Chorus Urbanus, undoubtedly a milestone in the choir's relatively short history.
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The choir has performed representative choral works such as Rossini’s Stabat Mater, Mozart’s Coronation Mass and Gounod’s Messe Solennelle de l’Honneur de Sainte Cécile, Puccini’s Messa di Gloria and John Gallea’s Missa Ignes Charitatis, Missa Fons Vitae and Missa In Fractioane Panis, the latter during the Papal Mass on the Granaries, Floriana, during Pope Benedict XVI visit to Malta. The choir is also the main exponent of Dr Gallea’s works written specifically for it. Under his direction, Chorus Urbanus has performed with top musical institutions such as the Eurofioramonia Firenzeing (Italy), the Marco Theatre Orchestra (Malta), The Thoresby Colliery Brass Band (UK), the Sofia Symphony Orchestra (Bulgaria), the Kurgan Symphony Orchestra (Russia), the Sofia Collegium Symphony Orchestra (Bulgaria) and the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra.

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Christmas 2018 brought many other opportunities for this choir, where the Junior choir took part in a number of “Christmas in Gozo” events. They performed Christmas carols in the Christmas Village at the Gozo Agrotourism Village, Xewkija, at the Victoria Playing field, in Villa Rundle – Christmas caroling, L-Istrina – in the presence of H.E. Marie Louise Coleiro and finally in the annual Christmas concert at St George’s Basilica in December. During the latter concert, the Junior Choir sang their hearts out backed by the Chorus Urbanus and by the excellent playing of the Urbanus Festive Orchestra. The Junior choir performed “Caro Gesù Bambino” also part given to Kuc Thuma Sciumi and Hannah Vella, and “Tfel fajjar” sung by Kristen Grima. 2018 ended with the choir’s participation in the series ‘Trail of Voices’, an evening of choir music around Victoria together with Chorus Urbanus at the Nativity BVM Savina Church.

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Malta Concert Orchestra

The orchestra, formerly known as the PBS Orchestra, was set up in 2014. In 2017 it moved to Piazza Teatru Rjal and was rebranded as the Malta Concert Orchestra with a mission 'to touch out to people across the board through accessible and inspiring musical performances.'

The MCO is a versatile ensemble made up of professional and semi-professional musicians who perform in formations of various sizes depending on venue and occasion under the direction of its associate conductors Paul Abela and Joe Brown.

During its short history the orchestra has already performed an impressive number of performances around Malta and Gozo with annual editions of Succés Maltes, Notti Italiane, A Night at the Musicals, charity Christmas concerts as well as a number of free concerts in various localities around Malta as part of Piazza Teatru Rjal's community outreach programme Piazza Il Pjazzza.

The Malta Concert Orchestra has also been instrumental for the success of L-Għarja tal-Poplu Festival tal-Kanzunetta Maltija, Malta’s only song contest in Maltese performed with the backing of a live orchestra.

Centre Stage Dance Academy

Centre Stage Dance Academy was established in 2008 by local dancer Natalie Sciortino. This dance school today boasts of over 250 students who specialize in classical ballet, tap, jazz and contemporary. Throughout the past ten years, Centre Stage has had many successes, namely 6 major dance shows, the most recent being its Tenth Anniversary Dance Show, winner of several local competitions, being twice chosen to perform at London Dance Proms at the Royal Albert Hall, winner of several successful international entries as well as being chosen to perform at Disneyland Park Paris.

Tonight, the Centre Stage Dance Academy troupe will be interpreting several of tonight’s concert’s orchestral musical numbers accompanied by the Malta Concert Orchestra and the senior and the junior sections of Chorus Urbanus.

Chorus Urbanus Productions

2/o Gorgi, Pompeii Street
Victoria, Gozo

e: chorusurbanus@gmail.com
w: www.chorusurbanus.com
w: www.feelmethemagic.mt

Credits

Artistic Director/Conductor
Dr. John Galea

Ass. Conductor
Jamie Camilleri

Musical Director
Josiann Caruana Xerri

Mandolinist
Mro. Mark Gauci

Soloists
Maureen Zerafa
Hilda Grima
Yvonne Galea, Ruth Portelli, Hilda Grima, Fabian Galea,
Mario Portelli, Mario Carras, Antonella Rapa, George Borg,
Karl Joseph Buhagiar, Janelle Rapa, Riden Gliorinio

Orchestra Leader
Kristen Grima, Gabriel Grech, Nina Debono, Andreas Refalo,
Kurt Theuma Scerri, Krista Mercieca, Hannah Vella, Shannah Portelli

Light Engineer
Antoine Fondo

Sound Engineer
Sergio Costa

Stage Construction
Chris Gauci

P.R.O
David Grech

Graphics Design
George Borg

Project Manager
Hilda Grima

Costume Mistress
Yvonne Galea, Antoinette Borg

Logistics
George Sacco Xerri, Charlie Sacco

Financial Controller
Charlie Sacco

Website Management
George Borg, George Galea

Committee Members
Architect Edward Scerri, Dr John Galea, George Sacco Xerri,
George Borg, David Grech, Yvonne Galea, Hilda Grima, Pauline Camilleri

Compiere: Amanda Ciappara Mizzzi

Gozo Cultural Support Programme

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VICTORIA, VCT 1012,
GOZO, MALTA.

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Erik Borg Street
Birkirkara BKR 2004
Malta.

Telephone
(+356) 2324206

Fax
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Victoria, Gozo

e: chorusburbano@gmail.com
w: www.chorusburbano.com
w: www.feelmethemagic.mt

Gozo Cultural Support Programme

A trusted, experienced organisation that is committed to build wealth for its clients and future generations.
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